



March 15, 2009

The Association of Joint Venture Management Boards (AJVMB) seeks the continued support and commitment of Congress and the Administration for federal funding of the Joint Venture program through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Over the past few years, the Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service has broadened the responsibilities of Joint Ventures to include conservation of all migratory bird populations. Additionally, habitat Joint Ventures have grown in number from 14 to 18. These changes reflect years of demonstrated success in implementing the goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, the 1986 initiative under which Joint Ventures were created. Simply put, Joint Ventures work.

Our success is the result of using sound science to develop landscape conservation plans and habitat projects that benefit birds and other wildlife and fish populations. These plans and projects are implemented by our diverse public and private partnerships.

In Fiscal Year 2009 the President's Budget request included \$14.9 million for Joint Ventures, an increase of almost \$4 million after years of flat funding. Given the greater scope of our responsibilities, the AJVMB recommends the following five-year plan to increase Joint Venture appropriations.

<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>\$ 15.0 million</b>
<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>\$ 19.0 million</b>
<b>FY 2011</b>	<b>\$ 23.0 million</b>
<b>FY 2012</b>	<b>\$ 27.0 million</b>
<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>\$ 30.0 million</b>

This expanded investment will allow Joint Ventures to:

- increase our ability to leverage public dollars by building public-private partnerships for on-the-ground habitat acquisition and restoration projects.
- incorporate recent scientific advances in the development of our landscape-conservation plans.
- fund new Joint Ventures to expand our services nationally.
- fund additional staff positions and projects.
- provide green jobs in local communities through habitat restoration projects.
- serve as an economic stimulus for communities through increased wildlife-watching and outdoor recreation opportunities.

We live in an era of accelerating climate change and increasing habitat loss. The Joint Ventures' science-based, partnership-driven approach to conservation addresses these challenges, and is a model for collaborative, community-based efforts necessary to sustain healthy and productive landscapes across America.

Thank you for your commitment to conservation and support for increased Joint Venture funding!

Sincerely,

Association of Joint Venture Management Boards